



**LABEL BALADE  
EN TOURAIN**



**Hiking  
HERITAGE**

Amidst royal lands  
and wild waters

**Amboise**

2 hrs - 7 km  
Difficulty : easy

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**UN LABEL DU CONSEIL DÉPARTEMENTAL  
D'INDRE-ET-LOIRE**

**TOURAINE  
LE DÉPARTEMENT**



## Explore

The Château Royal d'Amboise  
The Château du Clos Lucé - Leonardo da Vinci Park  
Château Gaillard Royal Estate  
The Chanteloup Pagoda  
Mini-Châteaux - Theme Park  
Old town, pedestrian centre and high street  
Large market on the banks of the Loire on Sunday  
The Loire by Bike  
Wineries



## technical information

GPS START 47°41'31.5" - E 0°98'44.8"

ELEVATION + 64 m

## useful information

Hotels, gîtes, B&Bs, campsites, hostels,  
holiday camps, restaurants

Large free town centre car parks, train station,  
shops

**Val d'Amboise Tourist Information**

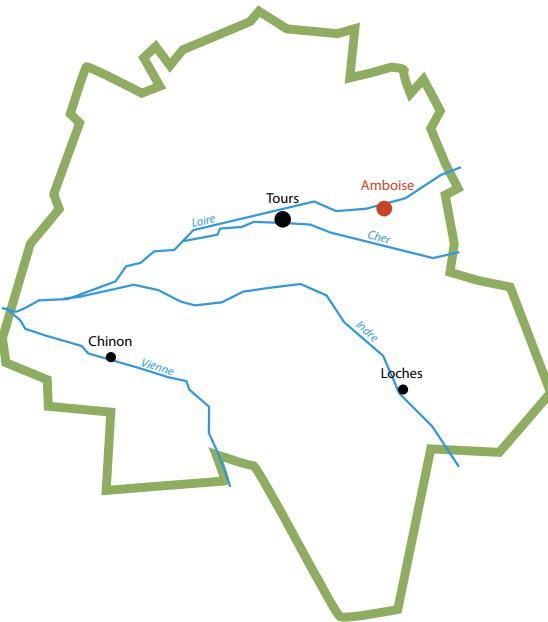
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## walking charter

Cherish and respect nature. Listen to it, do not spoil it and do not harm it. Stay on the trail and be discreet. Do not damage plants or undergrowth. Do not smoke in the forest or do not light fires. Do not scare animals. Do not neglect human contact. Respect and get to know this rural world that welcomes you.

This material is funded by the Indre-et-Loire Council as part of the Footpath and Hiking Trail Regional Plan.

If you encounter any problem during the process of your walk,  
please inform us at [suric@te](mailto:suric@te) or at [sportsdenature.fr](http://sportsdenature.fr)



## YELLOW MARKERS

STRAIGHT ON  
CHANGE  
OF DIRECTION  
WRONG WAY



Amboise was the capital of the Turone tribe from 4<sup>BC</sup> before it was that of the French Kings in the Renaissance. Charles VIII then François I brought the greatest artists of the time here including the architect Fra Giocondo, gardener Dom Pacello da Mercogliano and all-round genius Leonardo da Vinci. Châteaus and mansions bear witness to their time in the royal city.

During your walk you'll also experience the wonderful Loire landscapes listed as UNESCO World Heritage. As you go round a shoal, Europe's last wild river may well have a surprise in store such as the sight of a heron splashing about or a beaver working hard...

### 1

#### Start - Amboise Town Hall

This route begins on Rue de la Concorde opposite Amboise Town Hall. Go up the street and gaze at the wonderful examples of half-timbered houses on your left. The corbelled construction of these houses gave their inhabitants more surface area upstairs which was often above a little shop.

### 2

#### The conspirator's balcony

Carry on your journey and stop in front of the impressive Château Royal. Halfway up the wall a wrought iron guardrail reminds visitors of one of the town's darkest times. Dozens of Protestants were hanged here in 1560 after attempting to kidnap the young King François II. Walk to the end of the street to the banks of the Loire.

### 3

#### The Page's house

Walk a few metres along the Loire turn right down a little lane leading to the Page's house. This fabulous Gothic house is one of the oldest in town and was home to King Charles VII's young pages. Now go on the path that goes up the hillside.

### 4

#### Panoramic view

The Turones could see the river and look out over the surroundings from this view point. The Chateliers Plateau that you are now on was a real fortress to them. Cross the plateau to reach the stairs taking you back to the town centre.

### 5

#### Clocktower

The tower was once just a gateway into the town before being topped by a belfry in 1495 then a clock 5 years later. Rue Nationale is now one of the liveliest streets in Amboise. Go up the street until you reach Allée du Sergent Turpin then turn right.

### 6

#### Max Ernst Fountain

The fountain is by German-born sculptor Max Ernst and was unveiled in 1968. It is called «For the eaters, the funny, the genius» and dedicated to the ingenious Leonardo da Vinci as well as encouraging people to take time out to daydream and think. Now walk along the Loire and over the bridge.

### 7

#### Leonardo da Vinci statue

This Leonardo da Vinci landmark by the Italian sculptor Amleto Cataldi has features of the god Neptune gazing at the Château Royal. The large stacks of concreted bridge opposite remind visitors of the devastating battles waged in 1944 when Amboise was liberated. Continue your way on the riverbanks.

### 8

#### The Loire

The Loire is a setting that is constantly evolving and home to a fabulous array of biodiversity. Migratory birds (sterns, little ringed plovers) come here to lay their eggs in spring. Shoals appear in summer and almost tropical plants grow on them. At dawn, it's not unusual to see a beaver carting willow branches around. So keep your eyes peeled... and continue your tour of the island.

### 9

#### Île d'Or

The island was formerly called Île Saint Jean and splits the large river into two parallel branches. This is where two rulers, Clovis, King of the Franks and Alaric II, King of the Visigoths, met in 503 to sign a peace treaty. Legend has it that the monarchs feasted on a banquet in gold crockery, some of which now lies on the riverbed..

### 10

#### Industrial heritage

Look at Amboise's right bank now. It grew during the Industrial Revolution and saw the appearance of countless factories. One of the biggest was the Mabille company, renowned for its pre-assembled presses, and it was here that the business rebuilt one the Eiffel's wings for the Paris Universal Exposition in 1900. Cross the bridge to return to the start point.